

## The GOP War On Medicaid Threatens Tennesseans' Health

President Trump and Republicans in Congress have waged a relentless war on Medicaid. Their war on Medicaid is a war on children, seniors, people with disabilities, rural Americans, those fighting the opioid crisis, our schools, and everyone else who benefits from Medicaid.

### Republicans' War On Medicaid Jeopardizes Coverage For 1.4 Million Tennesseans

**By Refusing To Expand Medicaid, Tennessee Is Preventing 390,000 Tennesseans From Gaining Coverage.** By not fully expanding Medicaid, Tennessee has restricted its Medicaid program such that only parents earning up to 95 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. If Tennessee expanded its program, 390,000 [more adults](#) could gain coverage through Medicaid.

**1,391,147 Tennesseans With Traditional Medicaid Coverage, Including Seniors, People With Disabilities, And Children, Are At Risk.** The Graham-Cassidy bill that President Trump revived in his FY20 budget proposal would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 1,391,147 Tennesseans who are [enrolled](#) on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by [Avalere](#) found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036.

**52,605 Tennessee Children's Care Is At Risk.** 52,605 Tennessee kids are currently [enrolled](#) in CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in the Trump budget.

### Medicaid Is A Lifeline For Schools, Those Who Need Long-term Care, And Rural Hospitals

**Children And Schools Rely On Medicaid, Including 41 Percent of Children in Tennessee.** 41 percent of Tennessee [children rely](#) on Medicaid for coverage. Medicaid pays almost \$4 billion annually in school-based health services. Schools depend on these funds connect students with vital health resources — [68 percent](#) of school superintendents said that they used these funds to keep nurses, counselors, and speech therapists on staff.

**Medicaid Supports 60 Percent Of Tennessee Seniors In Nursing Homes.** 60 percent of Tennessee seniors living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

**Medicaid Covers 23 Percent Of Tennessee's Seniors And People With Disabilities.** In Tennessee, 23 percent of seniors and people with disabilities [have health coverage through Medicaid](#), including nursing home care. Nationally, approximately [one in four people](#) on Medicaid are seniors (9 percent) or people with disabilities (15 percent). However, they make up about [two-thirds](#) of all Medicaid spending. In other words, funding cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

**Medicaid Is Especially Important To People In Rural Areas.** 26 percent of Tennesseans living in rural areas are insured through Medicaid. The ACA has expanded access to health care to nearly [1.7 million](#) rural Americans who have gained coverage through the Medicaid expansion, not only playing a central role in improving rural communities' health, but also supporting these communities' economic well-being. The uninsured rate in rural areas in states that expanded Medicaid has dropped by a median of [44 percent](#) since expansion. Medicaid covers nearly [24 percent](#) of rural Americans, [45 percent](#) of rural children, [15 percent](#) of rural seniors, and pays for [51 percent](#) of rural births.

### Medicaid Helps Tennesseans Access Treatment For Opioid Addiction

Medicaid covers [one in four](#) Americans with an opioid use disorder and pays for 10 percent of Tennessee's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction. A recent study in [Health Affairs](#) found that expanding Medicaid could provide services to populations that may have previously had limited access to opioid use disorder treatment.